



July 30, 2008

Independent Record, Townsend Star

RE: Application for an Operating Permit for Rock Extraction in Lewis and Clark County

Dear Editor:

Please place the following notice in the legal publication section of your Sunday edition newspaper:

Revised Legal Notice

Notice of Application for Operating Permit (pursuant to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, Section 82-4-353 (1), MCA).

Valley Sand and Gravel, LLC. (VSG) located at 7510 Applegate Drive, Helena, MT. 59602 filed a revised application on July 21, 2008 for an Operating Permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. The revised application would include about 100 acres located directly north of the already proposed site, extending into the central portion of Section 26 as noted below. VSG will use heavy equipment and possibly blasting to extract rock for crushing to produce gravel. The operation would be on private land in a portion of Sections 26 and 35, Township 12 North, Range 4 West about ten miles north of Helena, MT in Lewis and Clark County.

VSG must obtain an operating permit because the site cannot stay under the five acre disturbed and unreclaimed limit required under the Small Miner Exclusion Statement.

An operating permit may be issued once the application is complete, an environmental analysis is performed, and the reclamation bond has been posted to ensure reclamation after completion of the rock extraction activities. If VSG develops additional lease agreements on other sites in the future, they would have to apply for an amendment or revision to the operating permit.

The applicant seeks approval for an operating permit of approximately 371 acres, of which up to approximately twenty acres may be disturbed at any one time. The operating plan calls for the reclamation of all surface disturbances.

Copies of the application can be reviewed by the public at DEQ offices at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT. For information on the project and to submit comments on the proposal, contact:

Herb Rolfes
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
(406) 444-3841 or e-mail at hrolfes@mt.gov

To expedite payment, please send your invoice, original tear sheet, and affidavit of publication to DEQ at the address above to the attention of Laura Turner. Please indicate that the bill applies to **EMB 5039-0028**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Herb Rolfes
Hard Rock Section Supervisor
Hard Rock Operating Permit Section
Environmental Management Bureau
Phone (406) 444-3841
Fax (406) 444-1499
hrolfes@mt.gov